Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00322 291637Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07
/080 W
----------291648Z 028256 /45
O 291330Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5626
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0322

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, UR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOVIET PRESIDENT NIKOLAY PODGORNY: SETTING
THE STAGE

REF: MAPUTO 0297 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING PAST WEEK, MOZAMBIQUE MEDIA AND GPRM HAVE EXPENDED GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT SETTING STAGE FOR VISIT OF SOVIET PRESIDENT NIKOLAY PODGORNY. SINCE MARCH 23, NOTICIAS HAS RUN AT LEAST ONE AND SOME DAYS TWO OR THREE FEATURE-LENGTH ARTICLES ON HISTORY OF FRELIMO-USSR COOPERATION, SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THIRD WORLD CAUSES AND AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, "IMPERIALIST" ATTEMPTS TO DISTORT MEANING OF PODGORNY VISIT, AND COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN PARTIES AND GOVERNMENTS IN MAPUTO AND MOSCOW. FOR ITS PART, GPRM HAS SPRUCED UP CITY OF MAPUTO,
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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00322 291637Z

HUNG SOVIET BANNERS AND FLAGS ON VIRTUALLY ALL THE CAPITAL'S MAIN STREETS AND ANNOUNCED THAT STUDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL WORKERS WILL BE GIVEN SEVERAL HOURS OFF TO LINE STREETS DURING PODGORNY'S MID-DAY ARRIVAL MARCH 29.

2. FRONT PAGE OF MARCH 29 NOTICIAS WAS DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO PODGORNY VISIT. IT CONTAINED LARGE PICTURE OF SOVIET

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PRSIDENT, BANNER HEADLINE WELCOMING FELLOW 'COMRADE', ARTICLE ON WARM RECEPTION AWAITING HIS ARRIVAL AND RARE FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ON MOZAMBIQUE-USSR RELATIONS.

3. AMONG OTHER THINGS, NOTICIAS EDITORIAL:

--DECLARED THAT MOZAMBIQUE AND USSR WERE "NATURAL ALLIES";

--SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE BASED ON "COMMONPRINCIPLES: INTERNATIONAL PRLETARIANISM, THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM, AND THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF MAN; AND

--NOTED THAT VISIT OF PODGORNY WAS A MAJOR "HISTORICAL EVENT" WHICH WOULD PROVIDE AN "IMPORTANT REVOLUTIONARY STIMULANT FOR" THE MOZAMBICAN PEOPLE.

CONTINUING, THE NOTICIAS ALLEGED THAT "IMPERIALISTS" WERE ATTEMPTING TO "SLANDER AND DEINGRATE" PODGORNY VISIT (AS WELL AS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE FRONT LINE STATES) BECAUSE IT POSED A THREAT TO THE KISSINGER INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WERE DESIGNED "TO COUNTER THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." THE ACTIONS OF THE "IMPERIALISTS" INDICATE THEY ARE "NERVOUS." THIS IS BECAUSE THE RECENT VICTORIES BY THE FORCES OF LIBERATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF AFRICA AND "THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ADOPTED THE SOCIALIST PATH TO OBTAIN FREEDOM FOR ALL THEIR PEOPLE" HAVE CONSOLIDATED THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS IN AFRICA.

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RM QUOTING PRESIDENT MAHCEL'S REMARKS DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT, EDITORIAL ALSO SAID THAT "WE WANT TO BUILD BETWEEN THE GPRM AND THE USSR EXEMPLARY RELATIONS, FOUNDED ON THE NATURAL ALLIANCE WHICH UNITES US, AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN BROTHERS OF THE SAME CLASS, AND AN ALLIANCE OF IDEOLOGICAL SOLDIERS FIGHTING FOR THE SAME CAUSE." EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT "IT IS IN THIS FRAMEWORK OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF MOZAMBIQUE AND THE SOVIET UNION, FORGED DURING THE LONG STRUGGLE AGAINST PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM AND AGAINST IMPERIALISM THAT WE (THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE) HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED LEADER OF THE USSR TODAY."
DE PREE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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